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Letter dated 6 November 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach herewith the joint communiqué issued at the end of the visit of the President of the Republic of South Sudan, His Excellency Salva Kiir Mayardit, in Khartoum, on 1 and 2 November 2017 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omer Dahab Fadl **Mohamed**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 6 November 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Final communiqué regarding the visit by His Excellency the President of the Republic of South Sudan to Khartoum, issued on 2 November

In response to a kind invitation from His Excellency Mr. Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir, President of the Republic of the Sudan, His Excellency Mr. Salva Kiir Mayardit, President of the Republic of South Sudan, visited the Sudan on 1 and 2 November 2017 along with a high-level delegation. President Al-Bashir was at the forefront of the welcoming delegation and provided generous hospitality commensurate with the special relationship between the two countries.

The two presidents held a closed discussion session. A number of committees that are parties to the cooperation agreement also met. Ministers and officials held bilateral meetings with their counterparts in order to discuss in detail matters of shared concern.

The two delegations then came together for a formal discussion session, which explored all aspects of bilateral relations in the light of the two countries' commitment to the cooperation agreement signed on 27 September 2012. The talks were marked by a spirit of consensus and a common understanding regarding the political, security, economic, commercial and humanitarian issues at hand.

The two sides also addressed developments in the situation at the regional and international levels. The outcomes were as follows:

1. Cooperation in politics and foreign relations

- The two sides agreed on the need to accelerate implementation of the cooperation agreement signed on 27 September 2012.
- The two sides emphasized the need to accelerate the work of the Joint Border Commission and the Joint Demarcation Commission.
- They agreed on the need to expedite the convening of political consultation committee comprising the ministries of foreign affairs of the two countries. They also agreed to sign a memorandum of understanding regarding diplomatic training. The Sudan reiterated its commitment to help train South Sudanese diplomats in various aspects of diplomacy.
- They agreed that the peace agreement signed in Addis Ababa in August 2015 should be the basis for any forthcoming political agreement in South Sudan. They stressed that the African Union and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) had a pivotal role to play in resolving conflicts on the continent of Africa.
- The Sudan stated that it would continue to implement its obligations under the tripartite agreement among the Sudan, South Sudan and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), which would allow humanitarian assistance to reach South Sudan through the territory of the Sudan.
- The two sides reiterated their commitment to supporting one another in regional and international forums.

II. Military, security and police cooperation

- The Joint Political and Security Mechanism met and decided to scale up its own work and that of its subcommittees.
- The meeting decided to immediately begin establishing a safe demilitarized zone pursuant to the decisions taken at the meeting of the Mechanism on 14 October 2015. It instructed the Joint Monitoring and Verification Mechanism and the Joint Military Committee, with the assistance of the African Union and the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei (UNISFA), to immediately begin verifying operations to redeploy outside the safe demilitarized zone and, in accordance with the agreed standards, to transmit accusations from either side regarding violations committed by the other side throughout the safe demilitarized zone.
- The meeting authorized the first stage of the opening of border crossings, which would take place on completion of the necessary arrangements to be made by the Joint Technical Committee on Border Crossings.
- The meeting endorsed the implementation of the decisions taken at the two meetings of the Joint Political Security Mechanism, on 5 June 2016 in Khartoum and on 15 May 2017 in Addis Ababa, respectively.
- The two sides committed to implementing the outcomes of the meeting within one month of that date or, at the very latest, by 31 December 2017, in order to guard against any delay.
- The Director-General of Police of the Republic of the Sudan and the Inspector-General of Police of South Sudan signed the record of the meeting.

III. Cooperation with regard to the economy, trade and oil

- The two sides agreed to enhance cooperation with regard to the economy, trade and oil, through the following measures:
  - The oil fields of Unity State would resume production, and the necessary documentation for that purpose would be completed. The productive oil fields of South Sudan would be supplied with operating materials and equipment through the port facility of Port Sudan.
  - The two sides agreed to put in place mechanisms to settle the obligations due in accordance with the Agreement on Oil and Related Economic Matters.
  - Training and capacity-building opportunities would be provided for employees of the State of South Sudan in the agreed areas of action.
  - Arrangements would be put in place to pay the funds due to retirees who had worked in the public sector before secession.
  - The Government of the Republic of South Sudan committed to pay debts owed to the Sudan by South Sudan in connection with oil arrears and the transitional financial arrangements.
  - The Government of South Sudan stated that it would do its utmost to ensure the restitution of all private property of Sudanese nationals in the Republic of South Sudan.
  - The two sides agreed to make shared efforts, along with regional and international institutions, to finance joint regional projects.
  - The two sides agreed that experience with regard to public-private partnerships and private-sector development in all aspects of the

economy would be passed on to South Sudan, and that a joint business council encompassing the two countries would be established.

- The two sides agreed to support the private sector and establish joint projects on the borders in support of peace and stability between the two countries.

- The two countries emphasized the importance of resuming joint action alongside the African Union with a view to waiving the debts owed by the Sudan owing to its commitment to the "zero option" whereby it would bear the foreign debt in full.

- The business federations of the two countries signed a memorandum of understanding.

IV. Media cooperation

- After discussions on the topic, the two sides signed a memorandum of understanding concerning the media.

V. Joint discussion meeting

- His Excellency President Omar Hassan Ahmad Al-Bashir emphasized that he was committed to the stability of South Sudan and hoped that it would overcome its current crisis. The Sudan would spare no effort at the bilateral level and through IGAD to press for peace in South Sudan.

- He said that the Sudan would continue to host persons affected by the war in South Sudan, and that his territory would be open to the transit of humanitarian assistance into that country. The Sudan would not allow any act of hostility against South Sudan to be launched from his territory.

- He described political developments in the Sudan and, in particular, the experience of national dialogue. He said that the Sudan would support national dialogue in South Sudan.

- He said that the Sudan supported the role of IGAD in promoting security and peace in South Sudan and endorsed its call for a comprehensive ceasefire in that country.

- He pointed out that the lifting of economic sanctions from the Sudan could have a positive effect on the country's relations with South Sudan in such areas as politics and the economy.

- His Excellency President Salva Kiir Mayardit welcomed the lifting of sanctions from the Sudan. He thanked the Sudan for opening its territory to the transit of humanitarian assistance and for providing such assistance to South Sudan.

- His Excellency President Salva Kiir Mayardit stated that his country would endeavour to benefit from the successful experience of dialogue in the Sudan.

- His Excellency President Salva Kiir Mayardit said that he would personally oversee implementation of the agreement reached between the two countries in 2012. South Sudan would not be the starting point of any act of hostility against the Sudan.

At the end of the visit, His Excellency President Salva Kiir Mayardit thanked His Excellency President Omar Al-Bashir for warmly welcoming his delegation. He expressed his hope that the Sudan would continue to develop and prosper, and that relations between the two countries would move forward from every point of view for the benefit of their two kindred peoples.